UCF NEWS

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UCF COMPUTER PROGRAMMING TEAM PLACES SEVENTH IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND FOURTH NATIONALLY

ORLANDO — A computer team from the University of Central Florida placed seventh internationally and fourth nationally in an worldwide computer programming contest sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery.

The ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest Finals of 1994 was attended by 35 teams each consisting of three members. The teams were given eight computer programming problems to solve within five hours and were ranked according to the number of problems solved with the least amount of errors.

The team from the University of Waterloo in Canada solved 6 problems, taking first place. Teams receiving second through sixth place rankings solved five problems each. They were the University of Otago in New Zealand, Duke University, Washington University, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam of Netherlands and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively. UCF's team solved four problems.

"I think the University and all of Central Florida should be proud of our team. The students' internationally and national rankings not only shows off their talents but reflects the caliber of computer science training offered at UCF," said the team's faculty advisor, Ali Orooji.

The three UCF team members, all computer science majors, are graduate student Robert Franceschini, senior Michael Smith and junior Travis Terry.

Each team at the competition was given one computer on which to work. Part of UCF's team training was to determine when should each player use the computer, which problems to answer, and how to develop computer programs that best address problems presented. To prepare for the competition, team members underwent over 20 weeks of training that included solving problems similar to those asked at computer programming contests.

Teams competing in the contest were from 15 regions. The five larger regions submitted three teams each; the other 10 submitted two teams each. The three Florida teams represented the Southeast Region, which comprises Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Mississippi, were from Florida. They were UCF, University of Miami and the University of South Florida.

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